



# State of the Future

## Innovation special

**Desalination research to supply a remote community with freshwater**

**Science students head to Washington**

**Western Australian winners of Federal Government grants**

**A look back at previous Innovator of the Year achievers**

**Innovation Centre tracks electricity**

## More water for WA

Supplying quality water for a healthy life and a strong community is a major concern for Australia. A lack of rain, warmer conditions, population, agriculture and industry growth put strain on our existing and traditional supplies, especially in Western Australia.

Fortunately, innovative Western Australian's manage this global quality water challenge by encouraging open dialogue, and undertaking meaningful research to develop infrastructure and technology.

Desalination is just one of the solutions and in 2006, Western Australia led the way in delivering more drinking water into Perth's public supply system with the opening of Australia's first, large scale seawater desalination plant in Kwinana.

The Perth Seawater Desalination Plant is the Water Corporation's biggest single water source providing some 17 per cent of Perth's water needs. The State's second plant in the Shire of Harvey is being constructed.

The National Centre of Excellence in Desalination (NCED) at Murdoch University leads and coordinates Australian research into desalination technology.

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# Minister's foreword

**As the Minister for Science and Innovation in Western Australia, I am privileged to see first-hand the high calibre of innovation that is taking place across the State. Successful innovation brings with it the opportunity for continued social and economic growth which is critical to addressing future challenges.**

The ultimate goal for any entrepreneur is to make money. With the business world becoming more competitive it is essential that companies improve the quality and delivery of their services, while reducing costs.

Adopting innovative practices can create the competitive advantage they need to succeed.

This year the State is playing an active role in the Australian Innovation Festival.

A total of 11 events will be held throughout Perth during the festival period.

Events cover a range of topics but all have a common theme – creating business opportunities for participants in the areas of research and development, and product and service commercialisation, across all industry sectors in the State.

The basic concept of innovation is a three step process – idea, application and diffusion.

The State Government recognises this process can be challenging so it provides a number of support mechanisms to assist innovators to capitalise on their ideas. One example is the Innovation Centre of Western Australia (ICWA), located within Technology Park Bentley. The Centre assists organisations and innovators seeking to commercialise their ideas, to establish networks and further develop their business activities.

The Centre is a central meeting point for innovators at all stages of the commercialisation process. It provides services in key areas such as intellectual property and legal services.

The State Government has also developed programs such as the WA Innovator of the Year Awards, that provide support and assistance to Western Australia's increasing number of innovators and entrepreneurs. To date, this program has helped more than 400 innovators take their ideas through the commercialisation processes.

Because of this, I endorse the WA Innovator of the Year Awards program and strongly encourage all of the State's innovators to participate.

I am also pleased to announce that this year the State Government is supporting the WA Young Innovator of the Year program. The program aims to encourage innovation in young people and will be administered through Scitech. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see the products of our younger creative minds.

I would also like to point out that innovation doesn't stop at the end of May when the festival concludes.

Innovation must be seen as a way of life, of doing business and, where necessary, as a cultural change within an organisation or community.

I encourage you to seek out and participate in the events taking place throughout the year or even consider holding an event of your own.

Innovation is critical to the social and economic growth of Western Australia. It will help to address future challenges and enable our State to maintain a strong and confident presence.

Finally, I would like to thank both Charles Morgan and John Poynton for their contributions to Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC). A new Chair will be announced shortly.

The Government is giving consideration to the council's 'From Strength to Strength' document and I look forward to continuing to engage and work closely with TIAC.

Innovation is critical to the social and economic growth of Western Australia. It will help to address future challenges and enable our State to maintain a strong and confident presence.

**The Hon. John Day MLA  
Minister for Science and  
Innovation**

# Renewable energy for the SKA

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed in Germany that will pave the way for renewable energy innovation for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and its Pathfinders.**

The MoU was signed between Australia's CSIRO, the Fraunhofer Institute of Solar Energy and the Max Plank Institute for Radio Astronomy. The signing took place during a workshop on 'Renewable Energy Concepts for Mega-Science Projects demonstrated by the SKA and its Pathfinders'.

A key focus of the MoU will be to promote scientific cooperation between Australia and experts from around the world, to develop strategies in renewable energy capture, storage and management for the SKA. The MoU will also look to advance the development of renewable energy systems for Australia and New Zealand's SKA precursor project, the Australian SKA Pathfinder at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in the State's Mid West.



*Innovation to develop renewable energy sources for radio astronomy is taking place in the State's Mid West.*

# 2011 WA Innovator of the Year Awards



## I am very proud to be the patron of the 2011 WA Innovator of the Year Awards.

The program plays a vital role in identifying and rewarding some of our State's finest thinkers and innovators.

Over the years, Western Australian innovators have made significant contributions which have led to advances in the way in which we work and live. These advances have significantly benefitted key areas of health, mining and petroleum, water, communication, and the environment, just to name a few.

The Innovator of the Year aims to harness our creative thinkers by providing award recipients with mentoring, valuable networking opportunities, financial and in-kind assistance to help them commercialise their ideas, and in turn create long lasting benefits for our economy and community.

Everyday I see tremendous examples of innovative genius. I recently, for instance, visited a Rio Tinto mine site in the Pilbara and saw innovation in action. Such innovative thinking has led to the world's first fully remotely controlled mine site.

The mine is operated at a computer console at Rio's control centre near Perth airport.

The initiative has increased efficiency and safety at the mine itself as well as allowing staff to acquire new skill sets.

In 1984, people could not believe that Professors Barry Marshall and Robin Warren were proposing that stomach ulcers were caused by bacteria and not stress. The Professors went on to prove that *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria caused ulcers and the condition could be treated with antibiotics, fully justifying them being awarded Nobel Prizes.

Now Nobel Laureate Barry Marshall is working on the possibility of vaccination by eating food such as yoghurt containing bacteria that have been modified to carry the vaccine. No more needles, ingenious!

My position as Chief Scientist of Western Australia enables me to meet so many fascinating people from all backgrounds. I like to think of my work as connecting the dots, bringing the right people together to create an outcome that benefits everyone.

I regularly meet with communities across the State, from Kununurra to Esperance, including a recent visit to Merredin and ones planned soon for Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany. These visits are an opportunity to promote the rewarding innovation program to our regions.



Whilst in Merredin I was told that a local farmer had invented the steel radial tyre showing that innovation happens everywhere in Western Australia.

As patron of the Innovator of the Year Awards, I am proud to promote the program across our State to the public and private sectors as well as academia.

I am delighted to endorse the 2011 Innovator of the Year Awards and strongly encourage innovators and entrepreneurs to enter and be part of the program. I look forward to seeing outstanding innovations and following their progress.

**Professor Lyn Beazley**  
Chief Scientist of  
Western Australia

## Spread the word Innovator is open for nominations!

Around this time each year, a buzz of excitement starts as Western Australia's innovation community prepare their applications and polish their pitches in anticipation for the opening of the WA Innovator of the Year Awards.

The time has come and the Department of Commerce is calling for inventors, industry, entrepreneurs and academia to submit their applications before 5pm on July 1.

The awards provide participants with the skills and connections to help take their

idea and turn it into a commercially viable business. The top 20 entrants are given the opportunity to access business skills training and work with mentors one-on-one.

Last year's program received more than 100 applications.

For more information about how to enter, visit [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/innovator](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/innovator).

# Where are they now?

It's been five years since the WA Innovator of the Year Awards first launched in 2007. Since then, more than 400 innovators have participated and been given access to business skills training, mentoring and industry contacts to help them turn their idea into reality.

The program has opened the doors to knowledge and opportunities for many of these innovators, with each participant taking away something different from the experience.

Some have had success and others are still persevering.

2007 winner and drilling technology firm Coretrack has been working with the petroleum industry to further advance its invention.

Coretrack's Core Level Recorder System is an integrated core tracking tool designed to explicitly measure the acquisition of a core sample during a coring operation. The product will assist the oil and gas industry during the project exploration, production and development phases.

Coretrack recently secured a commercial drilling contract with Woodside and successfully raised a significant amount of capital.

Edith Cowan University Professor Craig Valli received the Achiever award at the 2011 Western Australian Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards for his work on SimPLE.

The digital forensics tool analyses suspects' computers for illicit or illegal images and uncovers hidden or deleted content.

An Innovator of the Year finalist in 2010, SimPLE is designed to help WA police detect and prosecute criminals.

## Aeration Manager



*Henk de Graaf with the Aeration Control, a new innovation to automate the process of drying, cooling and maintaining grain to reduce energy consumption.*

The Aeration Manager invented by Aeration Control Australia automates the process of drying, cooling and maintaining grain, which reduces energy consumption among other benefits.

The innovation made the top 20 finalist in 2010 providing the Managing Director of Aeration Control, Henk de Graaf, with a great opportunity to network with similar businesses.

Mr de Graaf says the opportunity to see presentations by other companies during the mentoring process was highly valuable as was the opportunity to meet with a broad selection of enterprises operating in WA's innovation space.

Mr de Graaf continues to engage with the network of contacts he has made since the awards and is also exploring collaboration and investor opportunities with some of the enterprises he met through the process.



*Glen Thompson shows off his award winning technology that will police detect and prosecute criminals.*

## MillMapper

The MillMapper invented by Scanalyse uses a 3D laser scanner to obtain fast and accurate wear rate data on the internal liners of grinding mills used by the mining industry.

The invention reduces mill downtime and increases the lifespan of the liner while minimising breakages and maximising safety. Scanalyse won the Ready for Market Award and the WA Inventor of the Year Award for the invention in 2007.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Scanalyse, Peter Clarke, winning the WA Inventor of the Year Award was beneficial across four areas.

These included the \$100,000 cash component for the major award; the exposure the company received, which

resulted in a number of direct sales of the MillMapper; the access to skills training and development through the educational and mentoring components of the awards process and the opportunity to network with WA's innovation community.

# Get your innovation engine ready!

A new program will be held in November to help aspiring innovators and corporate entrepreneurs to learn how to prepare their innovative ideas for commercialisation.

*Ignition* is an intensive 5.5 day training program that will blend educational teaching sessions, small group mentoring and expert clinics with the opportunity for participants to network with successful innovators and professional service providers.

Curtin University has been granted exclusive rights by the University of Cambridge Judge Business School's Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning to deliver the program that is largely based on the successful Ignite program managed and delivered by the English University.

Ignition Program Manager and former software entrepreneur Jane Garrett said this was the only tertiary accredited commercialisation program in Australia.

"Ignition is a real coup for Western Australian innovators as there is no other program of its kind in Australasia," Jane said.

"Participants will be given a competitive advantage by learning from expert presenters who have real world innovation experience about the best way to take an idea and turn it into something that will not only benefit society but will provide financial returns.

"I worked on Ignite in the United Kingdom for nine years and have seen first-hand what programs like this can do to create opportunities for participants while building an accessible and supportive culture to be innovative."

Ignition is scheduled to be held this year between the 13-18 November at the Innovation Centre WA, Technology Park Bentley.

For more information or to find out how to participate, contact:

**Richard Thorning**  
Phone: 9266 4545  
Email: Richard.thorning@cbs.curtin.edu.au

**Jane Garrett**  
Phone: 042 326 3242  
Email: jane@globalcomposition.com  
Website: www.ignition.curtin.edu.au

Ignition is also supported by the Department of Commerce, the Small Business Development Corporation and Enterprise Connect.

## Innovation Centre reaches new heights



Elevation Corporate has been awarded the contract to provide innovation and commercialisation services at the Innovation Centre WA.

Department of Commerce General Manager Sandra Draper said the team at Elevation Corporate had a wealth of experience and would complement the State Government's vision for the facility.

"The Innovation Centre plays an important role in the innovation

space and the partnership between the State Government and Elevation Corporate will make this role even stronger," she said.

"Elevation Corporate will bring a strong innovation and commercialisation background to the day-to-day operations of the centre.

"The team's established networks and experience in these tight knit sectors will go a long way in ensuring the Innovation Centre stays at the forefront of WA innovation."

Elevation will develop a broad range of innovation activities and services in conjunction with the department.

If you need help with commercialising, contact the Innovation Centre on 6461 5975 or visit [www.innovation.wa.gov.au/](http://www.innovation.wa.gov.au/).

# Western Australia – the State

Industry, government, local councils and academia have joined forces to bring about a more collaborative approach to innovation in Western Australia.

The State is playing an active role in this year's Australian Innovation Festival!  
Under the banner, *WA – the State of Innovation*, the State Government has created a number of initiatives that will increase awareness and

provide the tools to support an innovative culture in the State.  
The Department of Commerce has encouraged dialogue between the innovation community to ensure there is a coordinated approach across the State.

ORGANISATION	EVENT TITLE	EVENT DATE/TIME	VENUE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
Wrays Patent Attorneys	Meet with a Wrays Intellectual Property Expert: Free consultation	Monday – Friday for the month May. 2 May – 31 May 2011 Time: By Appointment	Wrays, 56 Ord Street, West Perth	To provide a central location over the duration of the festival, through which to provide advice to members of the community seeking information on Intellectual Property, trade marks, designs, plant propagation/plant breeder's rights and brand protection.
SIIWA & Centre for Social Impact	Homelessness in Western Australia: Innovations in Policy, Funding and Services	3 May 2011 Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm	University of Western Australia, Stirling Highway, Crawley (University Club of Western Australia Seminar Room 1)	The Forum will showcase a major new homelessness service in Western Australia and the role of social enterprises in providing employment options for those who are homeless. But what other options are possible? What are the pros and cons of alternative solutions in WA?
Department of Commerce	2011 WA Innovator of the Year Launch	5 May 2011 Time: 9.30am – 11.30am	Western Australian Maritime Museum, Victoria Quay, Fremantle	The WA Innovator of the Year Awards is a State Government initiative designed to recognise and reward by providing award recipients with financial and tailored in-kind support. The program incorporates a series of events which include an official launch event and a mentoring program. The IOTY program will culminate in an award ceremony on 11 November 2011.
Inventors Association of Western Australia Inc	From Concept to Sales and Everything In-Between	5 May 2011 Time: 4.30pm – 9.30pm	Innovation Centre 9 De Laeter Way, Technology Park Bentley	Beginning with a showcase of innovation from around Western Australia, participants will be sharing their stories of innovation development as they view the various commercialisation paths offering an overview of the commercialisation path and providing both in-kind support and those in the innovation industry.
Business Foundations Inc	Protect and use intangible assets in small business	18 May 2011 Time: 8.30am – 12pm	AMC Jakovich Centre 4 McGrath Rd, Henderson	This seminar is an opportunity for an owner of a small to medium sized business that isn't associated with their equipment or their building. All intellectual property, people, systems and procedures that should be assessed and protected. This seminar will give the business owner the skills to assess their own intellectual property, business, and take steps to protect that value. This seminar will be part of a series of seminars regarding intellectual property protection. This seminar will also allow someone to complete a nationally accredited unit of competency.
Inventors Association of Western Australia Inc	Inventors Association – Invention Assessments	19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December 2011 Time: 7.30pm	City West Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street, West Perth	At the Committee Meeting of the Inventors Association of Western Australia, members can have their inventions assessed by the committee and by invited experts. The committee meets once a month however it is occasionally rescheduled according to committee members. The committee on the Monday of that week to ensure it is on. You will also notice that spots are made available on a first come, first served basis.
ACS, AIIA, eGroup & WITWA	2011 ICT Innovation Series	19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September Time: 5.30pm – 8pm	Various	A series of 5 networking events each hosted by a different ICT Industry Association with a different theme with a relevant industry speaker. Topics include Government support, Generating private investment, Generating WA Innovation in ICT. This is the first time this series has been run, and if successful we would like to see it become a regular event.
Small Business Development Corporation	The future belongs to those who see it first	25 May 2011 Time: 7.15am – 9.30am	Grand River Ballroom Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth	Jason Clarke of Minds at Work will address the breakfast event, encourage innovation opportunities and give them tools to focus on potential ways to be innovative.
Curtin University	Innovator in residence program (Sponsored by Charles Morgan)	26th May – 3rd June 2011	Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley	US venture capitalist (Bill Tai) will be visiting WA and available to share his experience in business development.
Curtin University	Commercial Innovation Awards Commercialisation Workshop	27th May 2011 Time: TBD	Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley	Workshop on commercialisation for Curtin staff and students.
IPAA (WA)/Global Achievers	Inside Innovation: The Other Side of Innovation: Solving the Execution Challenge	31 May 2011 Time: 8am – 5.30pm (7.30am registration)	Burswood Casino, Great Eastern Highway, Burswood	An interactive workshop experience based on the award winning work of the IPAA who have just completed the largest and most comprehensive study ever conducted in Australia. You will discover a straight-forward approach to executing an innovation initiative of any kind of plan.

# of Innovation

A calendar of events has been compiled which maps a program of State-based innovation activities taking place during the festival period.

Events cover a range of topics but all have a common theme – creating business opportunities

for participants in the areas of research, development, and technology commercialisation across all industry sectors in the State.

The Australian Innovation Festival was launched nationally on April 21 by Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and AusInnovation.

The theme is *Business, Innovation, Growth* and it is anticipated that up to 500 events are to take place nationally during the festival period, 26 April to 31 May 2011.

To keep track of planned events for the State, visit [www.ausinnovation.org/festivals/australian-innovation-festival.html](http://www.ausinnovation.org/festivals/australian-innovation-festival.html) and search the events area.

	COST	CONTACT	WEBSITE
which Wrays Patent Attorneys can offer free IP Property; specifically inventions, patents/ and strategy.	Free – 50min consultations by appointment	Contact: <b>Tana Gislingham</b> Email: <a href="mailto:tana.gislingham@wrays.com.au">tana.gislingham@wrays.com.au</a> Phone: <b>9216 5100</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.wrays.com.au">www.wrays.com.au</a> Event Details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
In Australia the Street-to-Home program and the are homeless or formerly homeless. Alternative forms of financing? What could we do	Free	Contact: <b>Brodie McCulloch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:brodie.mcculloch@siwa.org">brodie.mcculloch@siwa.org</a> Phone: <b>0413556400</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.siiwa.org">http://www.siiwa.org</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a> <a href="http://innovhome.eventbrite.com/">http://innovhome.eventbrite.com/</a>
Designed to support state economic development to assist with commercialisation. The awards, judging rounds, business skills training and presentation luncheon to be held in early	Free – by invitation only	Contact: <b>Dawn Lucas or Melissa Manuli</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dawn.lucas@commerce.wa.gov.au">dawn.lucas@commerce.wa.gov.au</a> or <a href="mailto:Melissa.manuli@commerce.wa.gov.au">Melissa.manuli@commerce.wa.gov.au</a> Phone: <b>9263 8223 or 9263 8260</b> or Michelle Nicholson: <b>9444 1111</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/innovator">www.commerce.wa.gov.au/innovator</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
, guests will start by networking, talking and displays. Then begins the formal lecture series information and inspiration for innovators and	Free – Please register your intention to attend	Contact: <b>Cameron Gibbs</b> Email: <a href="mailto:Cameron@openii.com.au">Cameron@openii.com.au</a> Phone: <b>0406277158</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/whats-on.html">www.australian-inventors.asn.au/whats-on.html</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a> <a href="http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/">http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/</a>
business to understand the value in their businesses have value locked away in their, in the same way as physical assets are	\$55 (inc GST)	Contact: <b>Kim Charles</b> Email: <a href="mailto:kim@businessfoundationsinc.com.au">kim@businessfoundationsinc.com.au</a> Phone: <b>9430 8569</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.businessfoundationsinc.com.au">www.businessfoundationsinc.com.au</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
business for the intangible assets in the property, starting with this topic. This seminar agency for intellectual property management.			
alia Inc. members are given the opportunity to This generally happens on the third Thursday committee availability. Please check with your need to register your intention to attend and	Must be a member of the Inventors Association of Western Australia Inc \$80 in the first year, \$40 each year thereafter.	Contact: <b>Cameron Gibbs</b> Email: <a href="mailto:Cameron@openii.com.au">Cameron@openii.com.au</a> Phone: <b>0406277158</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/whats-on.html">www.australian-inventors.asn.au/whats-on.html</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a> <a href="http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/">http://www.australian-inventors.asn.au/</a>
Association. Each evening would have a ment Initiatives and how to best take advantage T. d like to run the series each year.	\$45 per person for each event	Contact: <b>Amanda Mackay</b> Email: <a href="mailto:Amanda@polishedevents.com">Amanda@polishedevents.com</a> Phone: <b>94441111</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.aiia.com.au">www.aiia.com.au</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
aging small business owners to consider new ative in their business.	\$50	Contact: <b>Russ Davis or Caragh Waller</b> Email: <a href="mailto:Russ.davis@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au">Russ.davis@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au</a> Or <a href="mailto:caragh.waller@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au">caragh.waller@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au</a> Phone: <b>9220 0222</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au">www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
experiences in venture investing and technology	Sponsored by Charles Morgan	Contact: <b>Rohan McDougall</b> Email: <a href="mailto:R.McDougall@curtin.edu.au">R.McDougall@curtin.edu.au</a> Phone: <b>9266 3370</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
	Free	Contact: <b>Rohan McDougall</b> Email: <a href="mailto:R.McDougall@curtin.edu.au">R.McDougall@curtin.edu.au</a> Phone: <b>9266 3370</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a> Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>
of Chris Tremble and Vijay Govindarajan or on innovation. Workshop participants ative, involving in particular, a special	IPAA WA Personal Members: \$895	Contact: <b>Joanne Blayney</b> Email: <a href="mailto:joanne.blayney@ipaawa.org.au">joanne.blayney@ipaawa.org.au</a> Phone: <b>9921 5011</b>	Event details: <a href="http://www.ausinnovation.org/events">www.ausinnovation.org/events</a>

# Innovators come full circle

**In the theme of a well known saying – it's not always what you know but who you know – 20 Innovator of the Year (IOTY) Award finalists met with key players in the innovation space at the first WA Innovators Circle.**

As in all fields, establishing meaningful contacts has the potential to create unique opportunities. However, in the case of commercialisation knowing the right people is a necessity and potentially the make or break in getting your idea off the ground.

The WA Innovators Circle, administered by the Department of Commerce, allowed IOTY finalists to introduce themselves to Venture Capitalist Charles Morgan and WA Angel Investors Ray Hart and Jim Twedde.

They also had the unique opportunity to hear a presentation from Chris Heyring, who has achieved worldwide success with his

innovation Kinetic, a unique car suspension system.

IOTY finalist and inventor of the AMC Solids Control Unit, Mathias Stolzenberg said meeting people who have had phenomenal success in the innovation space was invaluable and would assist in forward planning for the company's product.

"Networking with people who have already commercialised as well as people in the same boat as me, was a real eye opener. We not only had the opportunity to share our success stories, we also discussed the difficulties and how we overcame them," Mathias said.

"I took away a renewed appreciation for the commercialisation process as well as confirmed that AMC is on the right path to successfully commercialising the Solids Control Unit."

Rob Newman from Stoneridge ventures also provided valuable tips about how to secure capital and information on exactly what investors are looking for from an investment proposal.

The event was the first in a series of four which aims to enhance participant's ability to create successful innovation based companies though access to unique content and expertise.

The WA Innovators Circle is funded by Charles Morgan.

# Innovation Centre goes green

**Innovation Centre incubator tenant and Innovator of the Year 2010 Growth Category winner, Metro Power Company, has been working closely with the Department of Commerce on a pilot program to improve the centre's energy efficiency.**

Metro Power Company has installed its E2M Sense® and E2M Stream® devices and is currently tracking the Innovation Centre's energy consumption.

Once enough data has been analysed, it will be used to help determine the best option available for a renewable energy source, then manage the interaction of supply and consumption.

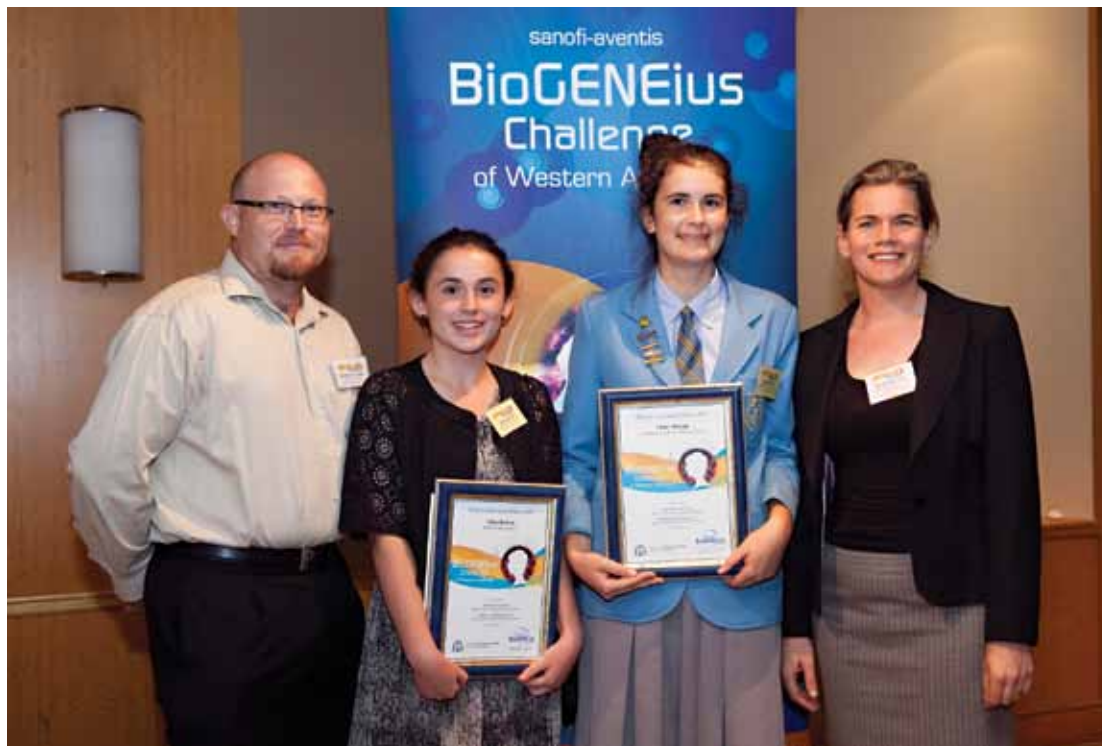
If successful, the program may be rolled out to other State Government assets in Technology Park Bentley and the Jakovich Function Centre at the Australian Marine Complex Technology Precinct.



*Metro Power's E2M Sense® and E2M Stream® devices are currently monitoring the Innovation Centre's energy consumption.*

# Washington here we come!

Forget after school sports, dance lessons or hanging out at the local shopping centre, science is the favored pastime for two bright Western Australian high school students who will fly to Washington DC in June to compete in the BioGENEius Challenge.



*Dr Simon Laws, Ailsa Brown, Clare Moran and Dr Archa Fox take centre stage at the official BioGENEius Awards ceremony.*

Ailsa Brown from Perth Modern and Clare Moran from St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls worked with mentors from the Western Australian science community to undertake high-level research projects into Alzheimer's disease and gene expression.

16 year old Ailsa's research may help to explain why some genetic carriers of Alzheimer's don't actually develop the debilitating disease.

Ailsa's mentor and Edith Cowan University Neurogenomics Group Leader Dr Simon Laws said there was evidence that testosterone could potentially be used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

"Ailsa looked at testosterone and the repeat length of the CAG nucleotides of the androgen receptor gene," he said.

"Ailsa's research will help to explain why some carriers of the major genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's escape the disease as well as provide evidence for the use of testosterone in the treatment of Alzheimer's."

Ailsa said she chose to work on this project because it had a strong medical focus.

"I am really interested in maths and I chose this project because it has a lot of statistical analysis and was directly related to medical research," she said.

Proving age is no barrier, 14 year old Clare Moran is the youngest BioGENEius Challenge participant. Clare worked with the Head of the Cancer Gene Expression Laboratory at the WA Institute for Medical Research Dr Archa Fox on her revolutionary research into gene expression.

Dr Fox discovered paraspeckles, small cellular structures that are involved in turning genes on and off. She has been working to understand how to stop faulty DNA strands leaving the nucleus and consequently turning into faulty proteins. Uncovering this process has the potential to stop gene defects.

Clare said this was the only research of its kind and she was really lucky to have been able to work with Dr Fox, a pioneer in her field.

"I analysed and documented the types of protein inside paraspeckles that could potentially play a key role in the function that regulates genes," Clare said.

"I was really excited to be able to work on this project that will help Dr Fox continue her fantastic research.

"Working with Dr Fox allowed me to get a good understanding of what it is like to be a scientist and I am really thinking about studying this area at University, well at the moment anyway."

The girls will present their research to a panel of top science experts and compete against America and Canada's best biotechnology students.

Ailsa said she had never been to America before and would be a great opportunity to get more experience.

"I am really looking forward to travelling with Clare and going to the United State's but I am really nervous about the presentation," she said.

The International BioGENEius Challenge will be held from June 26-29 in conjunction with the world's biggest biotechnology conference, BIO 2011.

The Western Australian competition is facilitated by the Department of Commerce.

**“I was really excited to be able to work on this project that will help Dr Fox continue her fantastic research.”**

For more information, visit <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/biogeneius/index.html>.

# Seven WA innovators win Federal grants

A combination of accessing funding and finding appropriate technical information and market insights are two of the biggest headaches for any start up business.

To help take away some of this pressure the Australian Government has established Commercialisation Australia, and seven Western Australian innovators have been successful in receiving support through the program.

Commercialisation Australia is a competitive, merit-based assistance program that offers not only funding, but the resources necessary to accelerate the business building process for Australian companies, entrepreneurs, researchers and inventors.

WA's Dimerix Bioscience is developing a novel treatment to halt the progression of diabetic nephropathy, a leading cause of kidney failure in western societies.

Dimerix Bioscience's CEO Tim Grogan said the GPCR-HIT technology would provide new opportunities for drugs with safer and more specific modes of action to be developed.

"The Commercialisation Australia program has been a key element in our ability to fund the progression of this opportunity into pre-clinical development."

Proving the worth of advertising has never been easier with the introduction of Faulkner Lab's predictive media planning tool. Atapa™ will help agencies and advertisers forecast the return on investment of their communications campaigns.

Having completed extensive stakeholder consultation with some of the world's largest media groups, Faulkner Lab used the Commercialisation support to develop a proof of concept prototype and ensure server scalability for a global rollout.

Saron Education's SEQTA Coneqt, interactive educational software, has also secured support from Commercialisation Australia.

Saron Education's Sharon Grosser said SEQTA was a web-based application that would give teachers an easy to use vehicle to deliver course work, learning resources and other key information to students and parents.

"SEQTA was spawned from an idea for a tool that would help teachers plan their day-to-day course work systematically and reduce their workloads," Ms Grosser said.

"Commercialisation Australia's support will enable Saron to trial and validate SEQTA and hopefully move the company forward at a faster pace."

Other WA-based Commercialisation Australia recipients include:

Industrial Composite Contractors – has developed technologies to strengthen and repair large scale steel and concrete structures affected by corrosion for the resources sector.

Mode Ideas – commercialising the Goss Edge, a stability device to ensure snowboarders spend more time boarding and



Mode Ideas has developed a device to ensure snowboarders spend more time boarding and less time sitting.

less time sitting, which doubles as an anti-theft device.

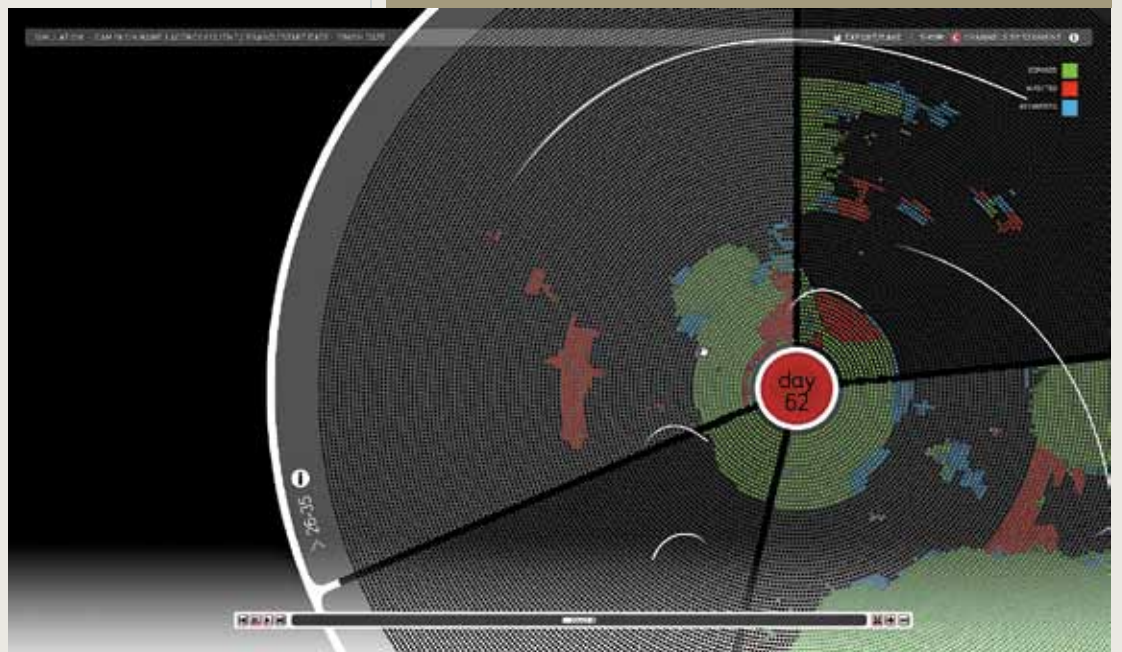
Secure Systems – has commercialised a range of secure laptop hard disk drives and portable execution and storage devices that will protect highly classified defence and government data.

Virtual Observer – has developed a software system to

capture and search video data through cameras on vehicles including buses and trains.

The Commercialisation Australia Case Manager for Western Australia is Marcus Christian. Marcus has assisted organisations at all stages of the commercialisation process across a wide range of technology and industry sectors.

For more information on the program, contact **13 22 56** or visit [www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au](http://www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au).



Faulkner Lab's predictive media planning tool proves that calculating advertising has never been easier.

# Everyone's a broadband winner!



Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy, Department of Commerce's Joachim Tan, Vice Chairman of ATUG David Swift, National Executive Officer of CITT Dominique Schipano and ATUG's Paul Morris at the Australian Telecommunications Users Group awards.

## Access to reliable broadband has been a problem for some of Western Australia's regional and remote communities but a State Government initiative to install purpose-built telecommunications infrastructure is narrowing the digital divide.

The initiative underpinning the \$1.2 million Royalties for Regions funded Community Emergency Mobile Communications Project and \$39.2 million Regional Mobile Communications Project has been recognised with two awards.

Administered by the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of Regional Development and Lands, the initiative recently won the Best Communications Initiative – Regional Award at the Australian Telecommunications Users Group (ATUG) National Broadband Awards in Sydney and the Regional Award at the WA Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards (WAITTA).

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the initiative demonstrated the provision of mobile and broadband could support improved emergency service delivery and provide social benefits to regional communities in Western Australia.

"The communities of Balingup, Kukerin and Quongup are currently beneficiaries of the initiative, with more regional areas expected to benefit from the Regional Mobile Communications Project," he said.

"The project has delivered enhanced safety and convenience for people living, working and holidaying in regional WA, and improved the delivery of government services and emergency services in communities which are prone to high bushfire risk and road trauma."

The ATUG and WAITTA awards recognise Australia's best examples of community enhancement through improved access to broadband.

Department of Commerce Executive Director Julie de Jong said the department's Digital Economy Branch was dedicated to a successful outcome in the delivery of these projects.

"The Digital Economy Branch worked extremely hard to ensure some of the State's most remote areas had access to mobile telephone and wireless broadband coverage," Julie said.

"These awards recognise that the team is leading the way in the development of innovative telecommunications projects throughout Australia."

## Innovate to export

The 2011 Western Australian Industry and Export Awards are now open for nominations.

The Industry and Export Awards were developed to recognise the success that WA businesses have had in international markets and acknowledge their impact on the local economy.

Minister for Commerce Simon O'Brien said WA was home to an array of businesses which were achieving exceptional results at home and overseas.

"Western Australian companies have a successful track record at winning awards at a national level. Results like this prove that companies within the State are on the right track to success," Mr O'Brien said.

"Our State's entrepreneurs, have a strong reputation as some of the nation's leading exporters. I am sure this year's program will uncover even more exceptional achievers."

In 2010, Matrix Composites and Engineering Pty Ltd won the Premier's Award for Excellence and also went on to win the Large Advanced Manufacturer category at the National Australian Export Awards held in Sydney.

Other WA Winners at a National level included Epichem (Small Business Export Award) and Navitas (Education and Training Export Award).

The WA Industry and Export Awards are administered by the Department of Commerce and sponsored by ANZ, ACPET, AusIndustry, Australian Trade Commission, Craig Mostyn Group, Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, Fremantle Ports, Chevron, Lavan Legal, Rio Tinto and The West Australian.

**Nominations close on Friday, July 15. For more information, visit [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/industryexportawards](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/industryexportawards), phone (08) 9263 8278, or email [industryexportawards@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:industryexportawards@commerce.wa.gov.au).**

# More water for WA from desalination innovations



Dr Pryor and his team aim to overcome the problem of the intermittency of renewable energy resources by developing a cost-effective hybrid solar/waste thermal system.

Dr Trevor Pryor said the 2-year project would explore the use of solar thermal and waste heat to power the V-MEMD.

"This project aims to extract groundwater to supply the Indigenous community's needs through chemical free, sustainable and energy efficient pre-treatment that has been customised to the Tjuntjunjarra water resource," Dr Pryor said.

The project partners are Murdoch University, University of Technology Sydney, WA Dept of Housing, Parsons Brinkerhoff, memsys clearwater, the Institute of Filtration and Techniques of Separation in France, and the Singapore Membrane Technology Centre.

The Department of Commerce provided the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination \$3 million to help design, establish and operate a range of testing facilities.

Want to know more about desalination? The next edition of State of the Future will focus on the desalination process and the world leading research that is being undertaken in the State.

## ...continued from page 1

Through the NCED, Australia is building national capacity and capabilities in desalination with a dual focus on breakthrough fundamental and applied research, with a goal to deliver meaningful improvements at a commercial scale.

NCED is currently partnering a project to develop a suitable and sustainable desalination system for providing drinking water in remote areas.

A need to supply more freshwater to the remote Tjuntjunjarra community prompted the research by Academic Chair of Energy Studies at Murdoch University Dr Trevor Pryor.

Located 800 kilometres North East of Kalgoorlie with a population of 120, the community requires more freshwater of a better quality than can be supplied by the current source.

An innovative technology by Singapore company memsys clearwater, the thermal vacuum-multi-effect-membrane-distillation (V-MEMD) desalination system, will make the water suitable for use.

V-MEMD combines thermal and membrane technologies, working in a vacuum so that the water boils at much lower temperatures of 50 to 80 degrees Celsius instead of the usual 100 degrees Celsius.

memsys Managing Director Götz Lange said the company had the first small scale modular thermal separation process.

"We didn't change the thermal technology itself – you can't change physics – we are just the first to put this advanced technology of thermal separation in a very tiny, cheap and reliable modular concept," he said.

However, the next challenge is finding a power source for the system in such a remote area.

For more information on the Tjuntjunjarra Remote Inland Indigenous Community Solar/Waste Energy Groundwater Desalination Project, visit <http://desalination.edu.au/>.

## Contact details

State of the Future is received by more than 3500 key industry representatives, local councils, media and other organisations. The newsletter is a great way to promote your business. In each issue we profile different companies within the science, technology, innovation, industry and enterprise fields.

If you have some news or a story to tell about what your company is up to for State of the Future please contact:

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Phone: 08 9263 8279



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Commerce

